

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of screening an optical fiber during a fiber draw process, comprising pulling a length of optical fiber from an optical fiber preform imparting a tensile stress to said fiber to thereby test the strength of said fiber and subsequent to said imparting a tensile stress, winding said fiber onto a spool, wherein said tensile stress is imparted to said fiber via a first and second capstan, fiber tension between said capstans is monitored during the draw process via a load cell, and the speed of one of the capstans is adjusted in response to feedback from the load cell about the monitored tension to maintain a desired tensile screening force on said fiber.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said fiber draw speed is greater than 20 m/s.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said desired tensile stress is greater than about 95 psi.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said fiber is wound onto a spool which enables access to both ends of said fiber while said fiber is retained on said spool.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising, shipping said shipping spool with said fiber thereon to a customer.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said fiber is wound onto a spool which enables access to both ends of said fiber while said fiber is retained on said spool.
7. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said fiber is wound onto said shipping spool in a manner which enables both ends of said fiber to be accessed while said fiber is stored on said spool.
8. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said fiber is wound onto said shipping spool in a manner which enables both ends of said fiber to be accessed while said fiber is stored on said spool.

9. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said method further comprising, prior to said shipping, conducting tests on said fiber while said fiber is on said spool.
10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said tests include at least one test selected from the group consisting of optical time domain reflectometry, dispersion geometry and polarization mode dispersion.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising conducting at least one optical property test on said fiber while said fiber is on said shipping spool by a testing method which involves connecting one end of said fiber on said spool to a light source, and evaluating light which is launched from said light source and emitted from the other end of the fiber.
12. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising conducting at least one optical property test on said fiber while said fiber is on said shipping spool by a testing method which involves connecting one end of said fiber on said spool to a light source, and evaluating the light at the other end of the fiber.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second capstan is rotated at a higher circumferential speed than said first capstan to thereby impart said desired tensile stress.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising adjusting the speed of said second capstan in response to said monitored tension, to thereby maintain said tensile stress.
15. (cancelled)
16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said load cell is connected to a pulley which in turn contacts said fiber, said fiber contact causing said pulley to rotate
17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein a computer monitors said tension in said fiber via said load cell.
18. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein less than 150 km of fiber is wound onto said spool.
19. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein a length of fiber is wound onto said spool which is sufficiently short to enable the attenuation of said fiber to be measured while said fiber is on said spool.

20. (previously presented) A method of screening an optical fiber during a fiber draw process, comprising pulling a length of optical fiber from an optical fiber preform, imparting a desired tensile stress to said fiber to thereby test the strength of said fiber and subsequent to said imparting a desired tensile stress, winding said fiber onto a spool which is to be shipped to a customer or optical fiber cabling operation with said fiber thereon, wherein said imparting a tensile stress comprises feeding said fiber through a screener capstan which works in conjunction with another capstan which is in contact with said fiber to impart said desired tensile stress to said fiber during said draw process, and the tension in said fiber between said screener capstan and said another capstan is monitored and the circumferential speed of said screener capstan is adjusted in response to said monitored tension.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said desired tensile stress is greater than about 80 psi.

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said desired tensile stress is greater than about 95 psi.

23. (original) The method of claim 20, further comprising shipping said spool with said fiber thereon to a customer.

24. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said fiber is wound onto said spool in a manner which enables access to both ends of said fiber while said fiber is stored on said spool.

25. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein said fiber is wound onto said shipping spool in a manner which enables both ends of said fiber to be accessed while said fiber is stored on said spool.

26. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said fiber is wound onto said shipping spool in a manner which enables both ends of said fiber to be accessed while said fiber is stored on said spool.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said method further comprises, prior to said shipping, conducting tests on said fiber while said fiber is on said spool.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said method further comprises, prior to said shipping, conducting tests on said fiber while said fiber is on said spool.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said tests include at least one test selected from the group consisting of optical time domain reflectometry, dispersion geometry and polarization mode dispersion.

30. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising conducting at least one optical property test on said fiber while said fiber is on said shipping spool by a testing method which involves connecting one end of said fiber on said spool to a light source, launching light from said light source through said fiber, and evaluating said launched light at the other end of said fiber.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said monitoring step comprises monitoring said tension via a load cell operatively connected to said fiber.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said load cell is connected to a pulley which in turn contacts said fiber, said fiber contact causing said pulley to rotate.

35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein a computer monitors said tension in said fiber via said load cell.

36. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein no more than 100 km of fiber is wound onto said spool.

37. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein a length of fiber is wound onto said spool which is sufficiently short to enable the attenuation of said fiber to be measured while said fiber is on said spool.

38-58 (cancelled)

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said tension is monitored electronically.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said tension is monitored electronically.